



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LAW AND JUSTICE

MEDIA RELEASE

FIRST REVIEW OF THE DUST DISEASES AND LIFETIME CARE AND SUPPORT SCHEMES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24 August 2017

The NSW Upper House's Standing Committee on Law and Justice has completed its first reviews of the Dust Diseases and Lifetime Care and Support schemes and has tabled two reports today detailing its findings and recommendations.

The committee previously reviewed the schemes in 2014. Since then, the NSW Government legislatively reformed the state's insurance schemes, resulting in structural and administrative changes. This is the committee's first examination of these two schemes since the implementation of the reforms.

The Hon Shayne Mallard, committee Chair, said: "The committee is pleased to report that both schemes are performing well. There is, however, some scope for improvement and our recommendations reflect this."

Mr Mallard added: "In relation to the Dust Diseases scheme, we have responded to calls to modernise application processes by recommending a 24/7 application and receipt process. Additionally, we have made recommendations to consider the establishment of a national data collection system and to also augment current review mechanisms for claimants."

The committee's recommendations regarding the Lifetime Care and Support scheme focus on improving the client experience. Mr Mallard noted: "We have made several recommendations to promote flexible delivery of treatment and care services, enhance access to information for scheme applicants, and improve dispute resolution processes."

The committee thanks all stakeholders who participated in the review for their valuable contribution. For further information about the review please visit the committee's website: www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice .

-ENDS-



Follow us on Twitter: @nsw_upperhouse

*For further comment please contact the Hon Shayne Mallard MLC
Committee Chair, on 9230 2434.*